

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058067

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058067

LIMDIS

FOR RMRC

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 058067 ACTION TEL AVIV 22 MAR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058067

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SREF

SUBJECT: ICEM

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM KELLOGG

1. NEED YOUR HELP IN ARRIVING AT POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO
CRISIS IN ICEM'S (INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR
EUROPEAN MIGRATION) ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET AS CONSEQUENCE
OF AUSTRALIA'S WITHDRAWAL. ISRAEL APPEARS TO ME TO HOLD
THE KEY.

2. VERY BRIEFLY, AUSTRALIA'S ASSESSMENT TO ICEM'S ADMINIS-
TRATIVE BUDGET WAS 10.5 PERCENT AND THIS GAP, LESS THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 058067

LIKELY CONTRIBUTION OF NEW MEMBER VENEZUELA, MUST NOW BE

FILLED BY REMAINING MEMBERS. (A PERCENTAGE POINT REPRESENTS ABOUT A THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION. A XOMLETE LIST OF MEMBER ASSESSMENTS BEING SENT SEPTTEL.)

3. WE FIND IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY ANY INCREASE IN OUR ALREADY GENEROUS 33.3 PERCENT ASSESSMENT. IN FACT, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL IN OUR RELATIONS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES OF THE HILL ON FUTURE FUNDING OF ICEM IF WE COULD BRING IT DOWN A FEW PERCENTAGE POINTS.

NEXT HIGHEST CONTRIBUTORS, GERMANY AND ITALY, AT 10.5 PERCENT EACH, FACE PROBLEMS WHICH MAKE INCREASES ON THEIR PART EXTREMELY REMOTE. IT THEREFORE FALLS ON THE REMAINING 27 MEMBERS TO MAKE UP THE 8 PERCENT GAP (10.5 PERCENT LESS VENEZUELA'S PROBABLE 2 PERCENT.)

4. IF ISRAEL, WHOSE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT IS 1.75 PERCENT, COULD BE INDUCED TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO 5 OR 6 PERCENT (WHATEVER YOU THINK IS ACHIEVABLE), ISRAEL'S HIGHER ASSESSMENT WOULD BEGIN TO REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE SERVICES WHICH ICEM IS RENDERING TO ISRAEL. (OVER 39,000 OF THE 77,867 PERSONS MOVED BY ICEM IN 1973 WERE MOVED TO ISRAEL. WHILE SOME JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIALS MINIMIZE VALUE OF ICEM ROLE, IT HAS RESULTED IN SMOOTH AND EFFICIENT CARRIAGE OF THESE REFUGEES AND OTHER MIGRANTS.) MORE IMPORTANT, ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO PICK UP A LARGER SHARE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN IS PERHAPS THE ONLY WAY THE ICEM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS, MEETING IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK, CAN HOPE TO REDUCE THE GAP TO A POINT WHERE MEMBERS CAN REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT AN INCREASE. IT WOULD OF COURSE BE IDEAL IF ISRAEL, A MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP, WOULD VOLUNTEER AN INCREASE, AND, RECOGNIZING THE LARGE BURDEN THE US HAS BEEN BEARING IN ICEM, INCLUDE AN EXTRA PERCENTAGE POINT OR TWO WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO BRING OURS DOWN ACCORDINGLY.

5. AS OF COURSE YOU KNOW, IN 1974 THE USG THROUGH MY OFFICE ALONE IS PROVIDING 36.5 MILLION FOR REFUGEES EX-USSR TO ISRAEL AND TO OTHER COUNTRIES.
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PAGE 03 STATE 058067

6. ICEM OVER THE YEARS HAS PROVIDED ISRAEL NOT ONLY WITH ASSISTANCE BUT WITH FRIENDLY MEMBER UNDERSTANDING. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NETHERLANDS. AN INITIATIVE BY ISRAEL AT THE WORKING GROUP AT THIS TIME OF FINANCIAL CRISIS FOR ICEM WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL.

7. WHILE WE WILL ALSO BE SEEKING HIGHER THAN AVERAGE INCREASES FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS NORWAY, DENMARK, AND SOME LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS, WITHOUT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE FROM ISRAEL THE EFFORTS OF THE WORKING GROUP TO FILL THE ADMINISTRATIVE GAP COULD WELL FAIL, WITH GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR ICEM'S CONTINUING VIABILITY.

8. UNLESS YOU FEEL THAT AN APPROACH TO THE GOI WOULD BE NONPRODUCTIVE, OR HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS YOU BELIEVE MIGHT BE BETTER PURSUED, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE EMBASSY

WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER URGENTLY WITH THE GOI AT AN APPROPRIATELY AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL IN THE HOPE THAT ITS DELEGATE TO THE WORKING GROUP WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE THE MODEST BUT CRUCIAL ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OF WHICH ICEM IS SO GREATLY IN NEED AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER
UNQUOTE RUSH

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